

3-1-2009

## Legacy - March 2009

South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology--University of South Carolina

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH TRUST

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**PLEASE ATTEND THE 35TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SOUTH CAROLINA ARCHAEOLOGY ON APRIL 3-4, 2009. (PLEASE SEE THE ASSC WEBSITE: [www.assc.net](http://www.assc.net))**

Thank you for your generous support of the Archaeological Research Trust (ART) Endowment Fund and the printing of *Legacy*. These donations have made it possible for new research at SCIAA and to continue publishing *Legacy* twice a year. We continue to seek donations from the readership to continue the publication of *Legacy* and to build the ART Endowment. Thank you for your past donations. Please send the enclosed envelope to me indicating whether you want to continue receiving *Legacy*. Contributions will be appreciated. Please visit our website at: [www.sc.edu/sciaa](http://www.sc.edu/sciaa). Nena Rice, Editor, ([nrice@sc.edu](mailto:nrice@sc.edu))

*New logo above: Blue-painted bird called a parrotot on Santo Domingo Blue on White bowl, excavated at Santa Elena.*

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
VOL. 13, NO. 1, MARCH 2009

# Legacy

South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology

## More Survey For Lucas Vázquez De Ayllón's Lost Capitana

By Christopher Amer

Flying at 400 feet over North and South Islands and the approaches to Winyah Bay and the North Santee River it is not much of a stretch to visualize the area as the early explorers would have seen it (Fig. 1). Four hundred years ago, the sea would have been some four-feet lower exposing more land, some barrier islands may have been shorter or smaller, and a few of the submerged sandbars guarding the entrance to the Bay displaced from their present locations. But otherwise, not that different. As Lucas Vázquez de Ayllón and nearly 600 would-be settlers drew near to the North Santee River (River Jordan) and Winyah Bay, they would have been faced by low land punctuated by the relatively higher sand dunes of North Island, then known as Cabo San Roman.



Fig. 1: Aerial view of North Island with the entrance to Winyah Bay and South Island in the background. (SCIAA photo)

The disastrous loss of their main supply ship to the shoals on August 9, 1526 was made only worse by the realization that the settlement they had dreamed of building near the River Jordan would have to be erected on more fertile ground. However, the location they eventually chose for the settlement, some 45 leagues (approximately 166 miles) southwest of Jordan, also was not to support their dreams as it became too late in the year

See CAPITANA, Page 4

# Director's Note

By Charles Cobb  
SCIAA Director

*Legacy* is the magazine of the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina

*Legacy* will be published twice in 2009

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With the fiscal turmoil rocking the nation as well as the world, university budgets everywhere have been experiencing sharp cutbacks. This has led researchers in all fields to intensify their emphasis on securing external sources of funds to get projects up and running. SCIAA has had some notable recent successes in this regard, and I would like to share some of the upcoming fieldwork projects for 2009 that result from a variety of private and public sources. Needless to say, the results of this work will continue to be shared in subsequent issues of *Legacy*.

Al Goodyear and his "Paleo gang" plan another field season at the Topper site, including underwater investigations at the nearby Big Pine Tree site. In March, they did fieldwork at the Topper site preparing for a focused effort on the pre-Clovis Pleistocene terrace excavations to be conducted in May 2009. The goal is to maximize the recovery of definitive stone artifacts from this very ancient deposit. The May season, as usual, will include a number of graduate students from partner institutions who will be focusing their efforts on the Clovis component at Topper.

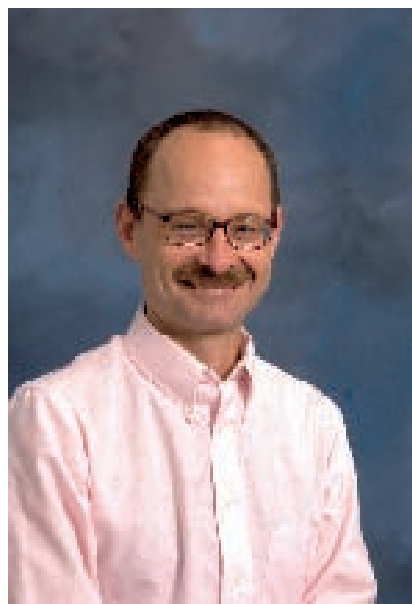
Researchers at SCIAA have



Tommy Charles working on Callawassie Island in 1981. (SCIAA photo)

been building a strong reputation in archaeology and military history. This will be a particularly fruitful year in that we have been awarded three grants from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program to conduct studies related to key military engagements in South Carolina. Steve Smith was the recipient of two of these grants, which will allow him to continue his path breaking work at Snow's Island where he is documenting important aspects of Francis Marion's military campaign. Steve also will be mapping the novel Charleston to Savannah Railroad defense line implemented by the Confederates. With the third Battlefield grant, Jim Spirek will be evaluating the Charleston blockade through the lens of underwater archaeology, as he and our maritime archaeologists record Civil War shipwrecks and defensive features in the Charleston Harbor. This work will be aided by the addition of remote sensing equipment acquired by Chris Amer with an EPSCOR grant.

Also on the theme of military history, Jon Leader and Chris Amer have support from the Bruce and Lee Foundation to conduct underwater archaeology on the CSS *Pee Dee*, a warship constructed at a shipyard on the Pee Dee River and scuttled in 1865. We plan for this work to be undertaken in conjunction with an underwater fieldschool out of Eastern Carolina University. This is a



Charles Cobb, SCIAA Director (SCIAA photo)





Tommy Charles wading through Smith's Lake Creek near the Topper site. (SCIAA photo)

great example of collaborative research between institutions, as Jon will also be lending his expertise on conservation to Francis Marion University where initial analyses and stabilization of artifacts will take place.

Meanwhile, the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program has just extended their contract with the Department of Energy for another five years. Through the years, the program has covered the gamut of archaeology, ranging from Paleoindian camps to 20<sup>th</sup> century



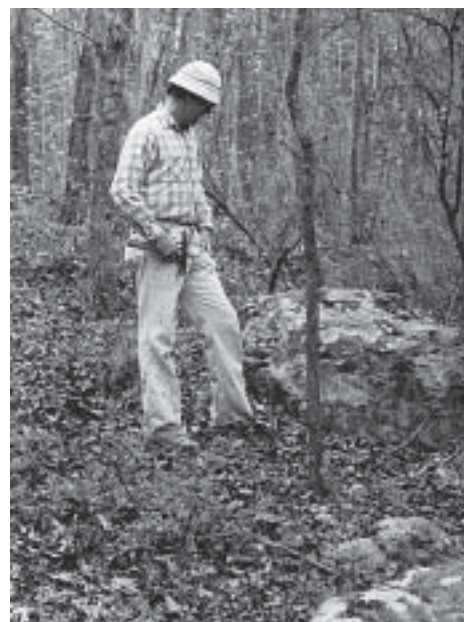
Tommy Charles pointing at Clovis level on the bank of Smith's Lake Creek in 1984. (SCIAA photo)

towns. Of late, their interest has returned to the unusual landscape features known as Carolina Bays, spearheaded by work by Mark Brooks along with new addition to SRARP, Chris Moore.

Finally, I'm pleased to relate that Chris Gillam, Chester DePratter, and myself have landed a National Science Foundation grant to explore the impacts of migration and colonialism among historic Native American towns along the Savannah River, Carolina's southern frontier. This issue has been a long-term pursuit for Chester, and the grant will allow us to build on his important body of research. We will kick things off with an archaeological field school in May at Palachacolas Town, an early 18<sup>th</sup> century settlement on what is now Department of Natural Resources Property, the Webb Wildlife Center.

The projects enumerated here represent just a sample of what we're up to, but hopefully they make the point that archaeology is alive and well at SCIAA, despite the very serious economic issues faced by USC and by South Carolina. Thanks to the Archaeological Research Trust, there will also be several small-scale projects occurring this year, as their endowment has provided seed money for a number of studies with long-term potential (See pages 17-18). In short, there is a lot of excitement in the air about our upcoming projects for 2009. But there is a very dark cloud on our horizon, and that is the impending retirement of Tom Charles this year. I cannot even begin to describe the magnitude of the loss that his absence will mean to SCIAA and the citizens of South Carolina, particularly within the brief confines of this newsletter. As I've gotten to know Tom better through our discussions about his past work, I've learned that he's worked in every corner of the state and on sites from every time period. Of course, most of our readership already knows this and will regret his departure as deeply as we do at SCIAA.

I particularly admire Tom because he has always practiced what we all preach:



Tommy Charles conducting the chert quarry survey in 1985. (SCIAA photo)

that archaeology is not just about research, it's about public outreach, generously sharing knowledge with others, and just plain getting people excited about our past. I have been on the receiving end of his collegiality on many occasions, as he has taken the time to acquaint me with his work on documenting Clovis points, his knowledge of lithic sources, his unsurpassed study of South Carolina rock art, and the list goes on. Multiply my own experience by thousands of people, and



Tommy Charles standing in front of map showing Paleoindian point plots in South Carolina. (SCIAA photo)

you will have an inkling of his impact on spreading the word about the archaeology of South Carolina. All I can say is that I do not let a good thing go lightly, and we will maintain an office for him in our building in the hope that this entices him to continue to be a regular presence here, because, really, we cannot imagine it any other way.

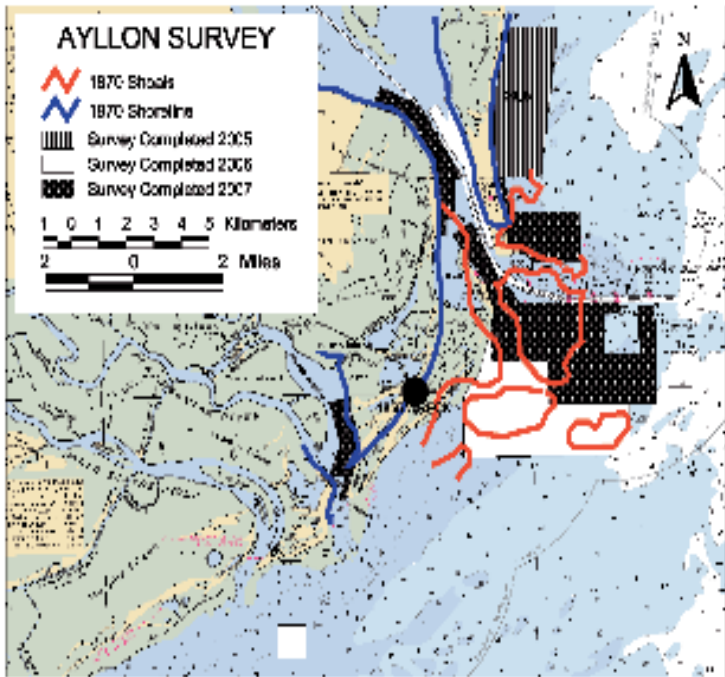


Fig. 2: Project Map showing areas surveyed since 2005. (SCIAA photo)

to plant crops and their numbers were diminishing at an alarming rate from disease and Indian attacks. When de Ayllón himself succumbed to disease on the feast day of St. Luke (October 18, 1526) anarchy reigned, led by two “discontented rebels” named Gines Doncel and Peter of Bacan. De Ayllón’s mortal remains were unceremoniously dumped in the sea by the rebels and the tattered remnants of the expedition quit their would-be settlement and returned to Hispaniola. This was to be the final attempt of settlement in North America by Spain until she virtually was forced to do so to protect the treasure-laden fleets returning to Spain from the Gulf of Mexico.

So, here we are at the close of another field season searching for the elusive Capitana lost during Lucas Vázquez de Ayllón’s 1526 voyage to the New World. Where the remains of the ill-fated vessel lie and where the abandoned fledgling settlement of San Miguel de Gualdapé was located have been the grist for debate and speculation for over half a century. In 1982, 43 scholars assembled in Georgetown for a colloquium dedicated to discussing the matter. After three days of presentations and examinations of available historical and environmental data, as well as taking into account possible errors in latitude determination

during the 16<sup>th</sup>-century, the issue was never resolved. Some scholars believed that the wreck could be near the Cape Fear estuary (the northern interpretation), while others favored a more southerly location near Winyah Bay (the southern interpretation) as the site for the disaster. The remains of the ill-

could therefore reside

near Edisto/St. Helena Sound area or in the vicinity of Sapelo Sound respectively. The best evidence for the ship’s loss comes from a combination of contemporary historical sources, including chronicler Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedó, the 1526 Vespucci map (shown in *Legacy*, Vol. 10, No. 3. Pg. 11), and a series of rutters published in 1526 and 1609. These sources point to the shipwreck’s location being

near Winyah Bay. Notwithstanding, archaeological surveys by Jim Michie in the 1980s on Waccamaw Neck and along the foreshore of Winyah Bay and North and South Islands uncovered archaeological evidence for neither the settlement nor the shipwreck.

In spite of this body of evidence, and with the assistance of geologists Scott Harris of the College of Charleston and Eric Wright of Coastal Carolina University, after three field seasons, the elusive shipwreck has retained its anonymity.

### 2007 Field Season Results

Between May 28 and July 10, 2007, staff of the Maritime Research Division (MRD), with financial support from the Archaeological Research Trust (ART), surveyed another 20.75 square-kilometers (7.92 square miles) of sea floor in the historic southern approach to Winyah Bay, within the bay proper, and at the mouth of the North Santee River. This brings the total area surveyed since 2005 up to 47.75 square kilometers (18.42 square miles) (Fig. 2), or almost 60% of the projected high-probability submerged search area. If we have to venture onto terra firma and conduct a survey for the shipwreck beneath the sands of North and South



Fig. 3: High wing Piper Cub airplane used for the aerial reconnaissance with pilot “Lep” Boyd. (SCIAA photo)



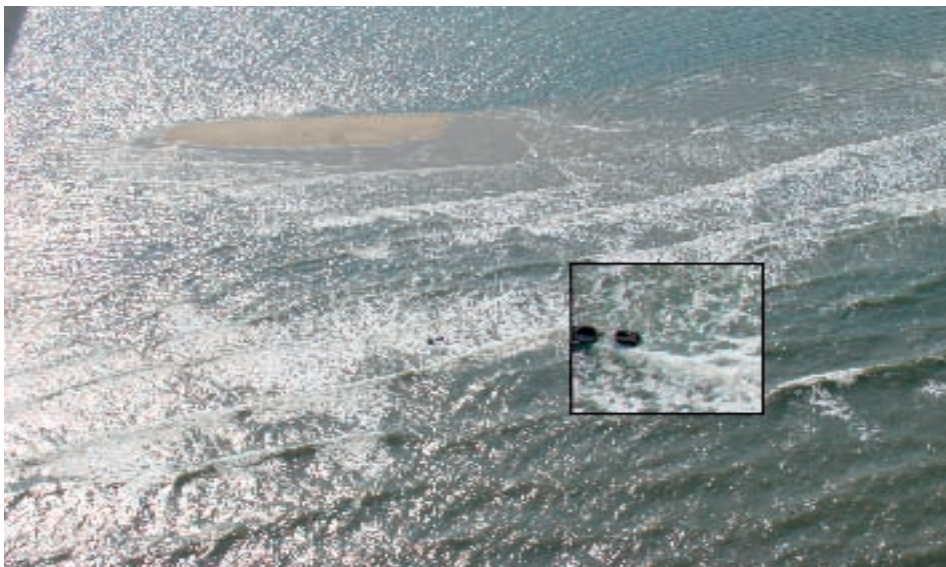


Fig. 4: Remains of a shipwreck in the surf-riddled approach to North Inlet. Exposed iron structures are more visible in the enlarged image inset. (SCIAA photo)

Islands we must add an additional 22 square kilometers (8.5 square miles) to the total.

The methodology used on the 2007 survey mirrored that of previous years with one significant difference. With the kind support of G. G. "Lep" Boyd, Jr. from Georgetown, South Carolina and using one of his company's Piper Cub aircraft, piloted by Lep himself (Fig. 3), I was able to conduct an aerial reconnaissance of the entire survey area in a matter of a couple of hours. The aerial survey amassed over 350 images and videos that documented the natural and built environment of the survey area and even identified the remains of a shipwreck amid the shoals guarding the entrance to North Inlet (Fig. 4).

The balance of the survey, while conducted at a much, much slower pace and certainly not as exciting as the plane ride, was nevertheless very productive. We identified numerous magnetic and acoustic targets during the four-week survey. After post-processing the survey data, 15 targets proved worthy of further investigation. During two weeks in August, MRD staff, along with Scott Harris and Emily Jateff, who volunteered for one week each, ground truthed five targets within the turbid and dynamic waters of Winyah Bay and ten targets outside the confines of the Bay (Fig. 5). Targets within the murky Bay turned out to be, to the one,

of modern provenance, and included an A-frame-like structure possibly associated with a shrimp boat. Likewise, most of the offshore hits were of modern origin, including lengths of two-inch pipe at two sites, metal, concrete, and copper fasteners, components of a boat trailer, and a modern boat anchor and chain, the latter recovered from within the entrance of the North Santee River (Fig. 6). However, three sites in the approaches to the Bay proved to be of particular interest. 2PRISW1-1, located just north of the North Jetty, is an oval iron box-like structure with pipes protruding from it. The curious object is three meters (10 feet) long by two meters

(six feet, eight inches) wide by one meter (three feet) high. A significantly intense magnetic anomaly, of some 511 gammas, was encountered approximately one mile south of South Jetty at a wreck marked on the NOAA nautical chart. Denoted in the South Carolina State Sites Files as 38GE66, this site, which contains much shipwreck debris, features a three-meter (10-foot) -long by 2.4-meter (eight-foot) -diameter iron boiler and some three meters (10 feet) of propeller shaft ending in a 1.8-meter (six-foot) -diameter iron propeller. The wreck is believed to be that of the Confederate blockade runner *Sir Robert Peel*, which was set afire and burned by its crew in April, 1862, after being chased by a Union vessel.

By far the most exciting find of the season was a very large iron construct lying within five meters of South Jetty. Sitting in seven meters (23 feet) of water, the main component of the site rises to within four meters (13 feet) of the surface of the water and is approximately 11 meters (36 feet) long by six meters (20 feet) wide. Other components of the site lie scattered over a wide area parallel to the line of jetty rocks extending the overall length of the site to over 24 meters (78.7 feet) (Fig. 7). While visibility on the site remained less than one foot on top of the object, the dark, murky water reduced exploration of the lower parts of the site to



Fig. 5: Emily Jateff handles the hand-held magnetometer at the surface before diving to investigate a target. (SCIAA photo)





Fig. 6: Jim Spirek (left) holds a modern anchor, one of the magnetic targets located by the hand-held magnetometer, held aloft in triumph by Scott Harris. (SCIAA photo)

a tactile procedure. Further investigation of the site was severely hampered by its close proximity to the jetty, ocean waves, and an intense water flow across the submerged rocks, which reversed direction with the tides. Several round openings along the length of the object could be portholes suggesting that the iron object may be the remains of a vessel lost against the jagged rocks of South Jetty. The size and construction of the remains and its close proximity to the jetty suggest a fairly recent origin for the site, which certainly postdates the construction of the jetty in the 1890s.

Candidates for the shipwreck sites located during the 2005 through 2007 surveys include the following vessels:

Shipwreck spotted by plane at North Inlet

- *Liverpool*, a schooner-rigged blockade runner out of Nassau that ran aground off North Inlet on 10 April, 1862 after being pursued by USS *Keystone State*. South Carolina State Site Files have this site designated as

38GE64.

- *Prince of Wales*, a blockade runner out of Nassau, laden with salt that fell afoul of the shoals off

North Inlet on 24 December, 1861, after being chased and fired on by a union blockade ship.

### Shipwrecks off South Island

- *Sir Robert Peel*, noted above.
- Quartermaster's steamer *Union*, and the steamers *Osceola* and *Peerless*, all of which were lost in the area at the beginning of November, 1861.
- *Arethusa* and *National*, both of which appear on an 1899 US Coast and Geodetic Survey chart of Winyah Bay.

While many interesting shipwreck and non-shipwreck sites have come to light during the survey, nothing of 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish origin has as yet made an appearance. We still have 40% of the projected high-probability area left to survey before turning to terrestrial possibilities for the final resting place of the vessel that dashed the hopes of so many would-be settlers and the Spanish Crown to colonize this area of the Southeastern Atlantic seaboard.

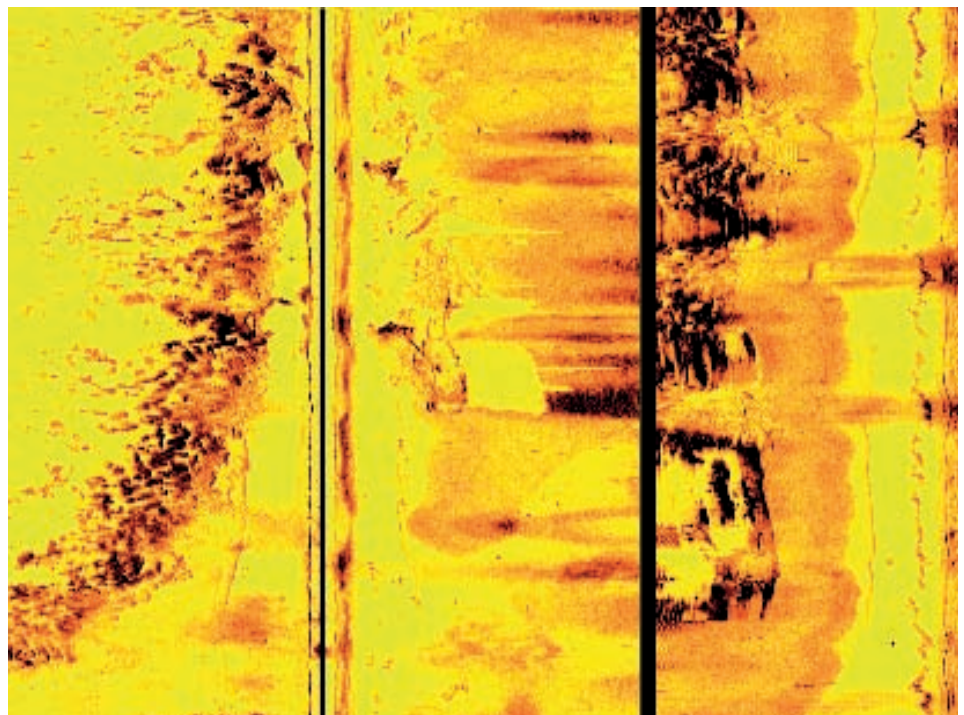


Fig. 7: Side-scan images of large iron wreck near the seaward side of South Jetty. Image to left and center shows jetty (left) and shipwreck (center). Image to right shows shipwreck from sonar towed in the opposite direction. (SCIAA photo)

# Conference Announcement:

## The Archaeology of the Recent African American Past

Date: February 27-28, 2009

Organized by Dr. Jodi Barnes

Sponsored by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Department of Anthropology, University of South Carolina

The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Department of Anthropology at the University of South Carolina will hold their first annual Post-Doctoral Fellows Archaeology Conference in February 2009. *The Archaeology of the Recent African American Past* is a two-day conference to be held at the University of South Carolina in Columbia on Friday, February 27 (9 AM - 5 PM) and Saturday, February 28 (9 AM to 3:30 PM). The conference will be held in Classroom A in the Darla School of Business. The central theme is the plurality of the post-emancipation experiences in the United States and how the archaeological record can provide insight into how African peoples experienced freedom in places such as James Island, South Carolina, Nicodemus, Kansas, or New Philadelphia, Illinois. The presentations will focus on the painful histories of Reconstruction and Jim Crow and the more hopeful histories of the Civil Rights Movement and the building of Black communities, neighborhoods, and universities.

Theresa Singleton, a historical archaeologist and foundational scholar in African diaspora archaeology, and faculty member at Syracuse University, New York, is the plenary speaker. The plenary will be held on Saturday afternoon at the Carriage House of the Robert Mills House & Park (a Historic Columbia Foundation property) with a reception to follow.

In addition, there will be a museum exhibit and reception at the McKissick Museum on the University of South Carolina campus on Friday night. A tour of African American Heritage sites in Columbia will also be available.

### Presentations at the Conference Include:

**Reaching for Freedom, Seizing Responsibility: Archaeology at the Phyllis Wheatley Home for Girls, Chicago**, Anna S. Agbe-Davies, *DePaul University*

**Archaeology of Jim Crow Era African American Life on Louisiana's Sugar Plantations**, David Palmer, *University of Louisiana at Lafayette*

**Black History as Property: A Horizon of African American Memorialization Proposal for The Archaeology of the Recent African American Past**, Christopher N. Matthews, *Hofstra University*

**The Cemetery as Focus of Community Identity and Resistance in the Past and Remembering and Reclaiming the Past in the Present**, John P. McCarthy, *S&ME, Inc.*

**Race, Displacement, and 20<sup>th</sup> Century University Landscapes: An Archaeology of Renewal and Urban Universities**, Paul R. Mullins, *Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis* and Lewis C. Jones, *Indiana University*

**What Means *Gottes Acker*?: The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Obliteration and Revival of an African-American Story**, Leland Ferguson, *University of South Carolina*

**Gibson Grove AME Zion Church Project**, Alexandra Jones, *University of California, Berkeley*

**Nicodemus, An Inspiration Beneath the Poppy Mallows**, Flordeliz T. Bugarin, *Howard University*

**Archaeological Perspectives on Structural Racism in the Jim Crow Era of the American Midwest**, Christopher C. Fennell, *University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign*

**Life and Death on James Island: Exploration and Protection of the Dill Sanctuary** Ronald Anthony, Eugene Frazier, Martha Zierden, *The Charleston Museum*

**Constructing Black "Childhood" in Reconstruction Era Dallas: Victorian Ideals and the Evolving Realities of an Engendered African-America**, Megan Teague and James Davidson, *University of Florida*

**An Archaeology of Urban Infrastructure and African-American Achievement in Annapolis, Maryland during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**, Matthew M. Palus, *Columbia University, New York*

**From Slave to Citizen on James Island: The Archaeology of Freedom at Fort Johnson**, Carl Steen, *Diachronic Research Foundation*

**White Privilege and Archaeology**, Jennifer Babiarz, *University of Texas, Austin*

**Challenges and Limitations in African-American Cemetery Studies: An Archaeological Perspective from the Carolinas**, Christina Brooks, *Winthrop University*

**An Archaeology of Commodity Flow in Columbia, South Carolina**, Jakob D. Crockett, *University of South Carolina*

**Excavating Inspiration: Archaeology at the Harriet Tubman Home**, Auburn, New York, Douglas Armstrong, *Syracuse University*

For additional information, check out the conference website at: [www.cas.sc.edu/SCIAA/postdoc\\_conf.html](http://www.cas.sc.edu/SCIAA/postdoc_conf.html) or contact Jodi Barnes at [JBarnes@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:JBarnes@mailbox.sc.edu).



# Research Division

## Update on Research at the Topper Site

By Albert C. Goodyear, Director  
Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey

The last time I reported on our activities at Topper was in the spring issue of *Legacy* in 2007. The previous year the pavilion was constructed over the deep excavation at Topper, which was celebrated with a barbeque and tour in the fall of 2006 (Goodyear 2007). Our host, Clariant Corporation, graciously offered to build a viewing deck inside the pavilion to allow tours to safely observe excavations down in the terrace (Fig. 1). Clariant provided the lumber and several of their employees donated their time and expertise in constructing this deck. This was done in time for the 2007 dig. It is a valuable

developments have transpired.

In the 2006 season, we excavated in two places. The first was down in the deep unit with the early preClovis occupation known as the Pleistocene terrace, which also produced the 50,000-year radiocarbon dates (Goodyear 2005). The second location was on what is being called the Hillside at Topper, in recognition of the extensive Clovis site on the upland overlooking the terrace below.

In 2006, the permanent roofed structure we call the pavilion was built allowing us to dig for the first time in the deep terrace units with shade from the sun

and without any intrusions by rain and flooding. Excavations here consisted of one-meter squares dug to the depth of the 50,000-year radiocarbon dates, or about 95.40 meters. The goal is to recover chert artifacts from the top of the terrace at approximately 97.30 meters, downward two meters to the level of the dates (Fig. 2). Numerous examples of the distinctive bend break tools have been found through out the terrace including one with an obvious graver spur (Fig. 3). This artifact is considered of unquestionable human manufacture and was found in the upper portion of the terrace (Fig. 2).

Another exciting find was a reddish

core of unweathered chert with four areas of battering and several flake detachments (Fig. 4). This artifact

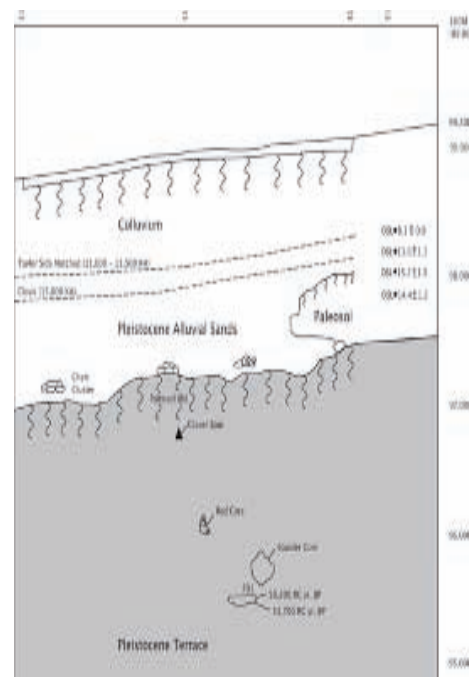


Fig. 2: Profile drawing of the four-meter continuous stratigraphic section from present day surface down to the 50k radiocarbon level in the Pleistocene terrace.

was recovered in situ at a depth of 96.05 meters, some 60 centimeters above the 50,000-year dates (Fig. 2). Like the spurred piece, it is considered a definitive artifact.

On the Hillside in 2006, graduate students began digging large block excavations in an effort to reveal what has turned out to be a very extensive Clovis occupation. Shane Miller, then a graduate student from the University of Tennessee, completed a 64-square-meter block on the south side of the hill in the footprint of Clariant's firebreak (Fig. 5). Referred to as the lower firebreak, this area was initially tested and exposed in 2005 in preparation for tours related to the 2005 Clovis in the Southeast conference. Shane's work revealed a dense Clovis deposit throughout the block with typical



Fig. 1: The viewing deck in the pavilion overlooking the 2007 Pleistocene terrace excavations. (SCIAA photo by Al Goodyear)

addition to our work and allows up to 30 people at a time to step inside the building and safely view the excavations. In the past three seasons (2006-2008), several important discoveries and program

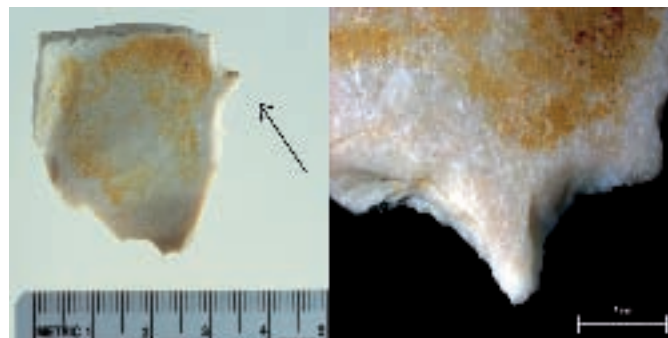


Fig. 3: Bend break tool with graver spur accessory found in the Pleistocene terrace. (Left: SCIAA photo by Daryl P. Miller; Right: Photo from Texas A&M Digital Imaging Center by Jim Weiderhold)



Fig. 4: Large preClovis core found in situ down in the Pleistocene terrace. (SCIAA photo by Al Goodyear)

Topper Clovis artifacts such as broken Clovis point preforms, blades and unifaces (Miller 2007). One tool in particular has



Fig. 5: View of 2006 lower firebreak excavation resulting in 64 square meter block excavation supervised by D. Shane Miller. (SCIAA photo by Al Goodyear)

turned out thus far to be unique. It is a large (155.55 gram) uniface, which appears to have been used in a haft based on heavy lateral edge grinding (Fig. 6). Such an implement might imply heavy-duty woodworking at Topper in conjunction with quarrying and tool manufacture (Miller and Goodyear 2008).

Ashley M. Smallwood, a doctoral student from Texas A&M University, started a second block immediately north of the firebreak in 2006. Ashley has spent three seasons at the Hillside excavation adding contiguous excavation squares each year to form a single large 48-square-meter block unit. In 2006, she had an auspicious beginning by finding the base of a rhyolite Clovis point (Fig. 7), one of only four points found thus far from the site. Data from her block excavations plus all Clovis bifaces from Topper will form part of her doctoral dissertation.

In 2007, work continued down in the Pleistocene terrace revealing more of the typical preClovis bend-break tools and simple unifaces. Because of the high clay content of these sediments, digging is slow and the soil must be wetted to permit ease of digging, and so as not to damage the chert artifacts. All sediments from the terrace are water screened over one-eighth-inch mesh. In five weeks of excavation,

a single one-meter square can only be taken down about 1.0 meter. Thus, two seasons are needed to take a unit to the 50,000-year level. The terrace was formed by over bank flooding with significantly lower energy than the upper Pleistocene sands (Fig. 2). Because of the high clay content, they can also be described as back swamp deposits. Under the supervision of Doug Sain, several volunteers, such as Jean Guilleux, Carey Geiger, Carol Reed, and Paula Zitzelberger have devoted themselves to this task of slow, difficult digging. They and their fellow weekly volunteers have been responsible for excavating approximately 13 cubic meters of the terrace from 2005-2008.

On the Hillside in 2007, work continued on Ashley's block excavation and units were opened further up the hill in the upper firebreak. Shane Miller



Fig. 6: Line drawing of probable hafted uniface tool from 2006 firebreak Clovis excavation. (Drawing by Darby Erd)

functioned as the Senior Site Supervisor for the Hillside overseeing all units plus managing the instrument recording. Shane also completed his master's thesis at the University of Tennessee based on his analysis of the lower firebreak block (Miller 2007). Starting in 2007, all Hillside Clovis artifacts were recorded using a total station. Tom Pertierra



provided this instrument through his support organization called Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey, Inc. (SEPAS, Inc.). Every two-meter unit on the upper firebreak has produced dense, obvious floors of Clovis artifacts (Fig. 8). As it stands now, we still do not know how far north or east the Clovis occupation extends.

A major development in research at Topper in 2007 was the publication of what has become known as the Clovis Comet hypothesis. This was a multi-authored paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (Firestone et al. 2007). Topper played a role in this discovery as Clovis age sediments collected by Allen West there in 2005 contained several markers such as iridium diagnostic of an extraterrestrial impact. One marker, which has been particularly diagnostic of an impact, has been the presence of nanodiamonds. Subsequent analysis of Topper sediments and other Clovis age sites has resulted in overwhelming evidence of nanodiamonds (Kennett et al. 2009). I also incidentally contributed to this research while identifying the presence of the Redstone fluted point in the South Carolina Paleo Point database. While reclassifying fluted points as Redstone, which had formerly been misclassified as Clovis, I found that there were four to five times more Clovis points than Redstones, the fluted point believed to exist after Clovis and before Dalton (Goodyear 2006). This same disproportionate ratio can be found from Virginia down to Florida suggesting a possible pan Southeastern U.S. decline in Paleoamerican populations where numbers of projectile points are a proxy for people. Such a decline would be consistent with widespread damage from an extraterrestrial impact suspected in causing the extinction of several key Pleistocene species such as mammoths and mastodons. If this were indeed the case, such an environmental disaster would also

have severely damaged human groups. Archaeologists are beginning to look more closely at not only post-Clovis projectile point densities, but also radiocarbon dates and paleo environmental data to check for anomalies (Anderson et al. 2008).

The year of 2008 saw an expansion in nearly every area of our program. In February, our Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey and its support organization headed by Tom Pertierra (SEPAS, Inc.) co-sponsored with the University of Texas (host), Texas A&M University's Center for the Study of First Americans, and the Smithsonian Institution, a conference on issues related to the early peopling of the Americas (Smallwood 2008a). Entitled the 2008 Paleoamerican Origins Workshop, leading scholars were invited to present papers on their sites over a three-day period, which included ample time for questions and discussion plus an evening of showing artifacts. The consensus was that a number of sites in North America are clearly from 1,000 to 2,000 years older than Clovis, and evidence is emerging for even earlier sites, some dating before that Last Glacial Maximum (20,000 years) (Collins et al. 2008). Based on the encouraging results of this conference,

plans are in the making for a future hemispheric-wide conference on the peopling of the Americas, which would be open to the public.

Fieldwork in 2008 included the usual deep terrace preClovis excavations, the Clovis occupation of the Hillside and the return to the Big Pine Tree (38AL143) site for underwater data recovery. Located about a mile away from Topper on the modern Savannah River floodplain, Big Pine Tree has long been known as a rich Paleoindian and Archaic site, especially for Clovis (Goodyear 1999). A good portion of the site has eroded into Smiths Lake Creek and was previously investigated by dredging operations in 1995 and 1997. Given the increased interest in Clovis technology as revealed at Topper, we decided to team up with SCIAA's Maritime Research Division (MRD) to continue underwater data recovery. Lora Holland and her staff of Joe Beatty and Carl Naylor did great service manning the dredge and working with the volunteers. One Clovis and a Dalton were found, as well as numerous early unifacial flake tools and prismatic blades. Dredging is planned for the first two weeks of the 2009 season at Big Pine Tree in an effort to continue to build a scientifically valuable collection of stone tools from this important site.

The impact of Tom Pertierra's assistance through SEPAS, Inc. was evident in our 2008 fieldwork. Not the least of these is the addition of a mobile laboratory and equipment carrier (Fig. 9). This is a new 18-foot trailer with hand tools, screens, pumps and a workshop in the back, plus an air conditioned field lab in the front. The lab has a wet sink, microscope, digital scanners, air compressor and a computer where field records can be scanned and entered daily. It is affectionately called the Science Wagon. In addition to this, Tom provided a second total station for piece plotting on the Hillside excavation, plus four digital laser levels. For the Pleistocene terrace dig, a roofed

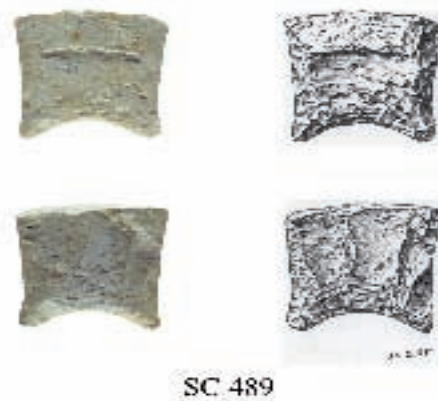


Fig. 7: The rhyolite Clovis point base (SC 489) found in the 2006 Hillside excavation by Ashley Smallwood. (SCIAA photo by Daryl P. Miller and Line drawing by Darby Erd)



Fig. 8: Excavating the Clovis layer on the Hillside, 2008, showing the density of Clovis artifacts. (SCIAA photo by Meg Gaillard)

screen deck on skids was constructed to aid in the water screening. SEPAS, Inc. also provided two floating screens for the dredge work at Big Pine Tree and a metal screening table all of which proved most useful. Through his ingenuity and generosity, Tom has brought the Allendale Paleoamerican Expedition to a state-of-the-art level, which is ideal for our work at Clariant or any other site in the Southeast that may merit fieldwork.

A positive development that has been growing since 2005 is the participation of graduate students from different universities in the supervision of fieldwork and research. One master's thesis on the Hillside Clovis has been completed by D. Shane Miller at the University of Tennessee (Miller 2007). Shane has functioned as the senior site supervisor from 2006-2008. He is now a doctoral student at the University of Arizona and remains a research associate through studies of Topper site formation processes. Ashley M. Smallwood, Texas A&M, has led excavations of Hillside Clovis

from 2006-2008 and recently was awarded a National Science Foundation dissertation improvement grant (Smallwood 2008b), which will include Topper as part of her regional studies of Clovis in the Southeast. Doug Sain has supervised the Pleistocene

David Padrusch, and a second one-hour show called *The Comet Storm* produced by Simone Swink. The latter had a fair amount of coverage of Topper. SCETV came each week to the dig gathering footage and produced an excellent 30-

terrace excavations from 2006-2008 and is completing his master's at Eastern New Mexico University using the Clovis blade technology at Topper for his thesis (Sain 2008). Given the tremendous potential for prehistoric research at Topper and Big Pine Tree, we hope to involve more graduate and undergraduate students in the future.

In 2008, there was a renewed interest in Topper by the media. The Clovis Comet story was the subject of two History Channel shows. One, a two-hour piece called *Journey to 10,000 B.C.* produced by



Fig. 9: Tom Pertierra with the mobile laboratory and equipment carrier. (SEPAS, Inc. photo by Betsy Pertierra)



minute show called "Finding Clovis" (Fig. 10). It is being provided to South Carolina public schools. A DVD can be purchased from ETV at [myetv.org](http://myetv.org). A new PBS show called TimeTeamAmerica directed by Graham Dixon brought a large group from Oregon and elsewhere to film for nearly a week in June. The show is modeled off the British TimeTeam program produced by Dixon. This will be a one-hour show devoted to Topper to be broadcast sometime in 2009. Topper was included in two magazines, *Science Illustrated* for the 50,000-year archaeological claim and in *American Archaeology* for Clovis. A copy of the latter article can be found on our web site along with several popular and scientific publications at [www.allendale-expedition.net](http://www.allendale-expedition.net).

Presently, folks are signing up for the 2009 expedition, which begins May 4<sup>th</sup> and ends June 6<sup>th</sup>. The first week will include the Pleistocene terrace dig and underwater work at Big Pine Tree. The second week will continue these plus the Hillside Clovis excavation begins. The third weeks through fifth weeks are Hillside and Pleistocene terrace digs only. Free tours are available to the public on Saturdays from 10:00 AM until noon. Please call the Institute or email me ([Goodyear@sc.edu](mailto:Goodyear@sc.edu)) if you are bringing a large group. For more information on how to sign up for the dig, go to [www.allendale-expedition.net](http://www.allendale-expedition.net). Registration is by a tax-deductible gift to the University of South Carolina (See back page for registration information).

I wish to thank all the members of the Allendale Paleoamerican Expedition who have signed up in recent years. Without their help none of this would be possible. David Anderson and Jenalee Muse Anderson have continued to graciously open up their lovely home in

Williston, South Carolina, for the much-fabled Paleocarnivore Ball featuring David's marinated steaks. This past year we were pleased to have our recently arrived new SCIAA Director Dr. Charlie Cobb and his wife Terri Price in attendance for inclusion in the traditional group photo on the front porch of their home (Fig. 11). Clariant Corporation who hosts our

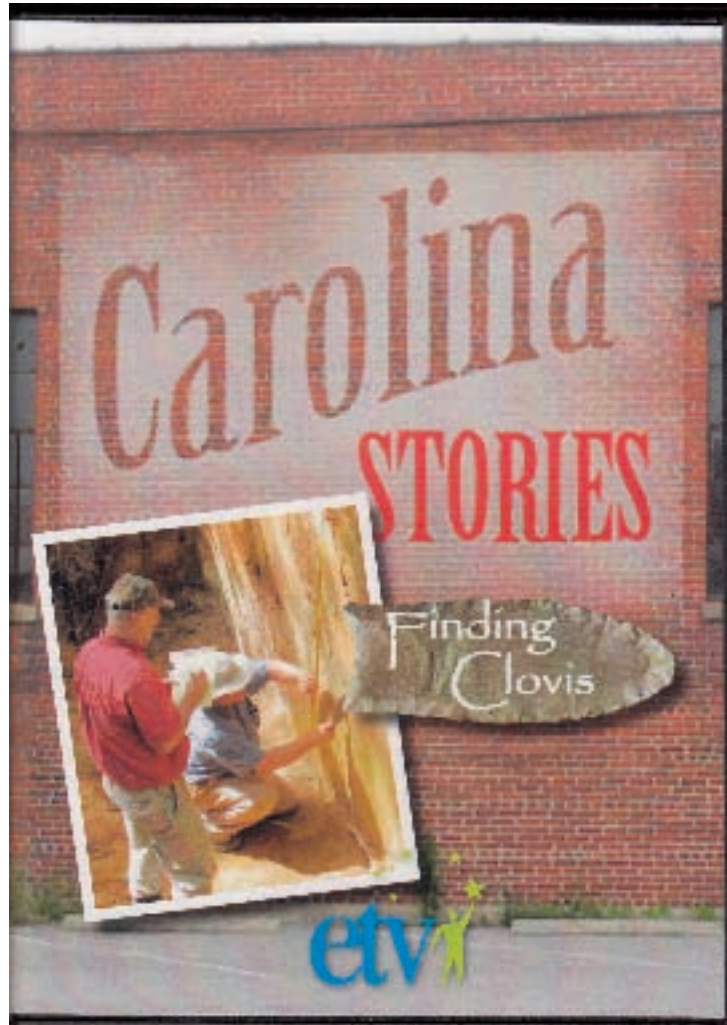


Fig. 10: Cover of the SCETV video "Finding Clovis." (Courtesy of SCETV)

dig every year was again extraordinarily accommodating. Bill Hartford, recently retired Plant Manager, over the years gave us great assistance, including help with the pavilion and viewing platform. His replacement, Eric Riden, has also helped in many ways, as has Daniel Bessinger, Human Resources Manager. Bill and Jack Kneft of Colonial Packaging have provided Ziploc bags for our field and lab work, which is much appreciated. Darrell Barnes of Yesterday's restaurant has contributed critical supplies and storage.

Several donors have given beyond the dig registration allowing us to keep going on this interesting journey to the past. Thanks to all.

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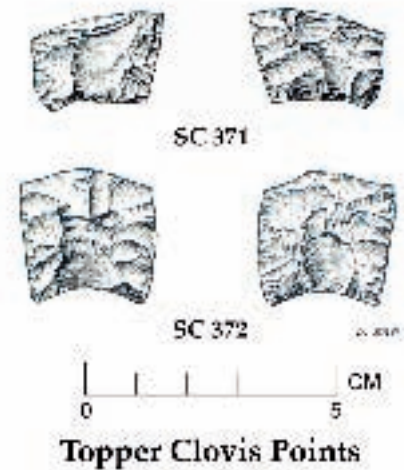


Fig. 11: 2008 Allendale Paleoamerican Expedition volunteers and staff at the Anderson home in Williston, South Carolina. (SCIAA photo by Meg Gaillard)



# Santa Elena Update

By Chester B. DePratter

This is a busy time for the Santa Elena Project. Although there has been no fieldwork at the site since June 2008, there is an abundance of work taking place in our labs and elsewhere.

In November and December, 2008, Heathley Johnson (Fig. 1), long-time Santa Elena research assistant who now lives in Greece, worked on rebagging and weighing all of the construction debris recovered during three seasons of fieldwork on the house that was occupied by Gutierre de Miranda, Governor of Santa Elena from 1580 to 1587. During his processing of the collection, Heathley pulled out pieces of wall plaster and daub containing clues to the construction of and repairs to the building. In the coming months, Jim Legg and I will analyze the plaster and daub materials in an effort to reconstruct that building.

Linda Rosenfeld Pomper is currently analyzing all of the Chinese porcelain from Santa Elena (Fig. 2). She is an art historian specializing in Chinese export porcelain, so she is the ideal person for this work. She has analyzed porcelain collections from Santa Fe, New Mexico, Panama Viejo, and Old Mobile, Alabama, and she



Fig. 2: Porcelain plate from Santa Elena depicting phoenix-like creature with traditional "precious objects" on rim. (SCIAA photo)

has published extensively on porcelain in ceramics journals. In a preliminary report on the Santa Elena collection, she noted that there are no comparable collections from the 1570s and 1580s, which makes our collection "extremely significant." We

look forward to seeing her final report in the coming weeks.

Just in the past couple of weeks, we received a report from Dr. Margaret Scarry (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill) on the plant remains recovered from the large excavation blocks surrounding Governor Gutierre de Miranda's house (Fig. 3). She has analyzed collections from other Santa Elena contexts, so her more recent work will expand on what is known about plant use among the residents of Santa Elena. New additions to the list of plants known to have been used at Santa Elena include sunflower and cabbage palm. Over the next several months, Dr. Scarry will analyze material from a well located near the governor's house, so there will be new additions to our understanding of plant use at Santa Elena once that work is completed.

Dr. Elizabeth Reitz



Fig. 1: Stanley South and Heathley Johnson discussing Santa Elena collections analysis. (SCIAA photo)





Fig. 3: Cane and wythe-wrapped palmetto stalk from Santa Elena well. (SCIAA photo)

(University of Georgia) is nearing completion of her analysis of a huge collection of food bone from the Santa Elena site. Her analysis of material from the governor's house lots as well as from Ft. San Felipe I (1566-1570) will represent a wonderful addition to what is currently known about the local and imported animal species that were part of the Spanish diet at Santa Elena.

In mid-February 2009, Dr. Martin Gibbs (University of Sydney, Australia) spent a week at SCIAA looking at the Santa Elena artifacts collection (Fig. 4). Dr. Gibbs is currently involved in a search for Spanish sites in the Solomon Islands. There were Spanish expeditions in that part of the Pacific in 1568, 1595, and 1606, with at least one attempt to establish a permanent settlement in 1595. Dr. Gibbs has been using Spanish documents and previous archaeological surveys to identify possible Spanish sites, and now he is preparing to undertake additional survey and more extensive excavations. His newly acquired knowledge of the Santa Elena site and collections will provide important insights as he tracks the Spanish through the Solomon Islands.

Jim Legg, Lisa Hudgins, and I have been working on preparing final reports on several components of our work at the Santa Elena site. The first report to be completed will be the final report on the plantation period cemetery on the Santa Elena site as well as the other

contemporary cemeteries on Parris Island. Other reports in the works include an overview of our several seasons of work on the two lots occupied by Governor Miranda, a report on the Spanish kiln and its contents, and a report on the work in and around Ft. San Marcos II (1582-1587). We are also working on a report on excavations associated with planning for shoreline stabilization of the Santa Elena site. That work was done in conjunction with development of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project to develop a shoreline stabilization plan that we hope will be finalized and implemented in the not too distant future. Jim Legg, Stan South, and I are working on finalizing these

reports with the able assistance of Lisa Hudgins who is dealing with all the maps and photographs.

In addition to all of the above, I have a paper in press relating to the Spanish-contemporary Native American pottery from the Santa Elena site. That paper will be published in a volume edited by Dr. David Hurst Thomas (American Museum of Natural History) and Dr. Kathleen Deagan (Florida Museum of Natural History), and it should be available by summer, 2009.

There are not any excavations planned for the Santa Elena site for the coming year. We will continue to work on producing final reports on our long-term research at this important Spanish colonial site. The site remains open to visitation, and many of the most significant artifacts that have been recovered in the past 30 years of excavation are on display at the Parris Island Museum. Additional Santa Elena artifacts are on display at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia.



Fig. 4: Jim Legg and Martin Gibbs in Santa Elena lab with Spanish olive jar. (SCIAA photo)



# Archaeological Research Trust

## ART Grants Given for 2009

By Nena Powell Rice



Excavations being conducted at the Robertson Farm site (38PN35). (SCIAA photo)

The Board of Trustees of the Archaeological Research Trust made decisions to fund six SCIAA researchers for the year 2009. A total of \$24,340 was given to support the following researchers and projects

### Robertson Farms Site (38PN35)

Tommy Charles received \$7,820 to excavate a wide area with the use of construction equipment to strip away the plow zone to reveal prehistoric subsurface features. These excavations will occur during the entire month of May 2009. Students are encouraged to volunteer as well as other professional and avocational archaeologists.

### The Cerro de los Burros Locality: Uruguay: A Cross-Cultural Comparison to the Allendale Quarries of South Carolina

Christopher Gillam received \$4,000 from the Archaeological Research Trust Fund in conjunction with other approved funding from a R. L. Stephenson grant and monies raised for the Paleolithic Research Fund through the USC Educational Foundation.

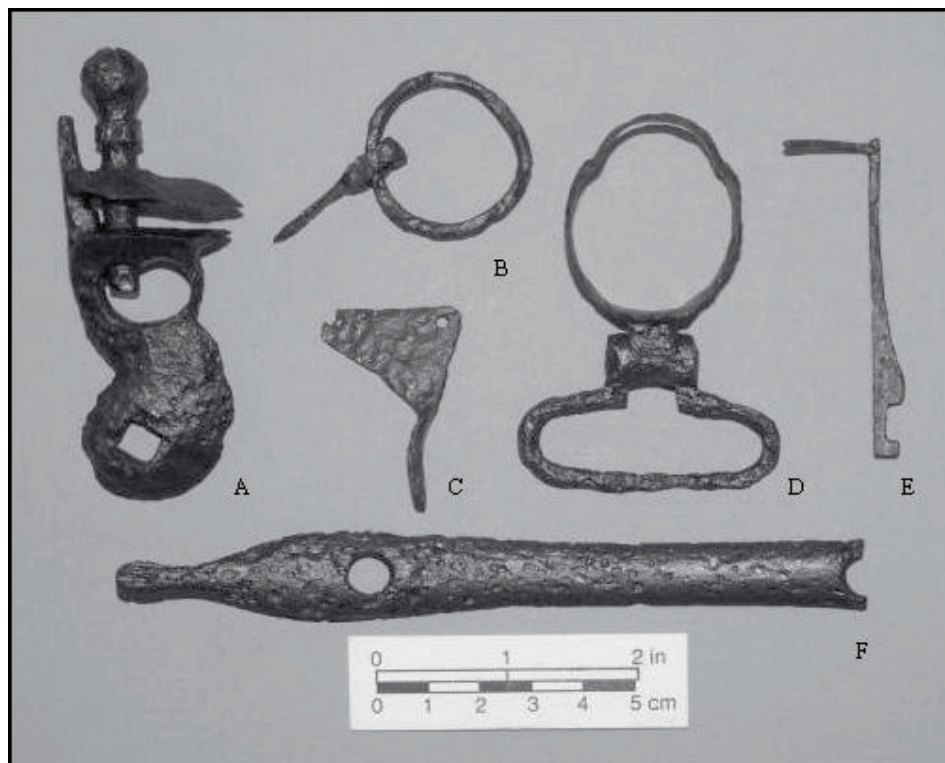
A total of \$6,850 will be used to fund travel, subsistence, and carbon-14 dates in support of further archaeological investigations in Uruguay. The purpose of this research is fourfold. First, it will provide a detailed secondary analysis of artifacts excavated by Meneghin (in

Uruguay) over three decades of collection and compare it to the South Carolina Paleo-Point Survey and recent graduate student studies on excavations at the



Fluted point found in-situ on the bank of the Uruguay River near Bella Union. (SCIAA photo by Chris Gillam)

Topper site. Second, it will afford a formal survey of the Cerros de los Burros locality to delimit site boundaries and assess site conditions. Third, it will establish a preliminary geo-archaeological context for remaining deposits and verify the established C-14 dates of the Urupez site.



A group of French musket parts from the Camden Battlefield, including examples from both private collections and SCIAA archaeologist's investigations. (SCIAA photo)



Brass Candlestick from Marion's Camp at Dunham's Bluff, South Carolina. (SCIAA photo)

Finally, the preliminary results afforded by ART and other funding will be used to pursue larger grants from international granting agencies for ongoing research at the sites.

#### **Camden Battlefield Artifacts—Photography, Conservation, and Curation**

James Legg received \$2,980 to photograph, conserve, and curate a large and significant collection of artifacts from the Battle of Camden, including material recovered during the archaeological metal detector surveys and material donated to the project by private collectors. It is probably the most extensive collection of its kind from a single Revolutionary War battlefield.

#### **Geoarchaeology and Geochronology at Flamingo Bay (38AK469)**

Christopher Moore received \$4,500 that will be used to apply optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating to address questions related to Carolina bay archaeology, chronology, and site formation. Specifically, close-interval (~20 cm) down-profile OSL sampling will be conducted at Flamingo Bay (38AK469) on the Savannah River Site in order to test ideas about site formation and to more explicitly link depositional units and

archeostratigraphy to Holocene climatic variability and hunter-gatherer adaptation.

#### **Francis Marion Dissertation Research**

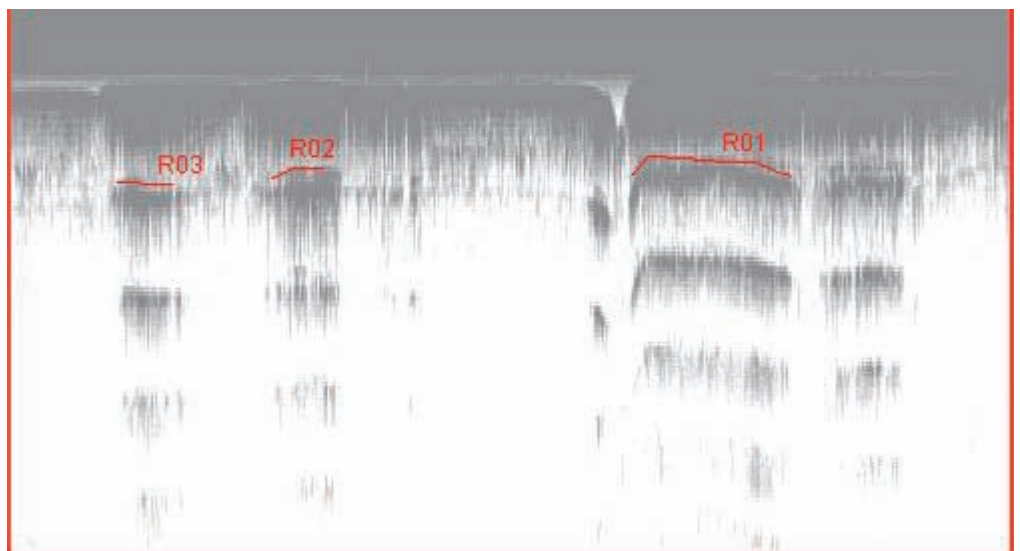
Steven Smith received \$2,405 to assist in the completion of his Ph.D. research, which is an anthropological examination of partisan warfare using the partisan campaign of Francis Marion (August 1780-September 1781) in the lowcountry of South Carolina. He will focus his research on partisan warfare, community, and archaeology, with specific reference to Snow's island. The ART funds will be

specifically used to travel to Washington, DC to conduct research at the Library of Congress, Society of the Cincinnati, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the National Archives.

#### **USS George Washington Research Project**

James Spirek received \$2,635 for the purpose of locating the remains of a Federal gunboat sunk by Confederate fire in Whale Branch River, along the northern end of Port Royal Island, Beaufort County, during the Civil War. On April 9, 1863, two Union vessels, USS *E. B. Hale*, a Navy vessel, and USS *George Washington*, an Army steamer, although on independent missions were cruising in company up the Whale Branch River. In the early morning hours of the 10<sup>th</sup>, the *E. B. Hale* left the *George Washington* at anchor and steamed towards Port Royal Ferry. On return, the commander of the *E. B. Hale* was informed of enemy firing on Union vessels further downriver. Steaming towards the sound of battle, they came in sight of the wreck of the *Washington* abandoned, burned, and sunk at the edge of a marsh some 500 yards from the shore. Jim intends to conclusively state that he and his team have located the remains of the *George Washington*.

All of the above projects will result in articles that will be published in future issues of *Legacy*.



Sub-bottom profiler image revealing buried objects in historical location of the USS George Washington. Large anomaly on right may signify location of the gunboat. (SCIAA graphic)



# SCIAA / ART Donors Update January 2008-February 2009

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# Join the 2009 Allendale Paleoamerican Expedition May 4-June 6, 2009 In Savannah River Valley of Allendale County, South Carolina

Calling for volunteers from the public, no experience necessary, to sign up for a week or more to help excavate ancient archaeological sites associated with prehistoric chert quarries. In 2009, the Expedition will continue exploring the Clovis and preClovis occupations at the Topper site. Volunteers learn excavation techniques and artifact identification. The Expedition also provides a good excavation experience for undergraduate and graduate students. The cost is \$466 per week (\$400 is tax-deductible). Pre-registration is \$60 per week due by April 15, 2009.

- free camping with hot showers at the site
- evening lectures and programs
- motels within 30minutes
- lunch and evening meals provided
- Paleoamerican book and T-shirt

To pre-register and reserve a place, please send a non-refundable \$60 check, payable to USC Educational Foundation, to Dr. Al Goodyear at the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, 1321 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC 29208 (803-777-8170). Email inquiries to [goodyear@sc.edu](mailto:goodyear@sc.edu). Please indicate which week or weeks you will be attending. Register on-line at [www.allendale-expedition.net](http://www.allendale-expedition.net).



Underwater investigations in Smith's Lake Creek below the Topper site. (SCIAA photo)

## Registration starts January 1, 2009

- |     |           |      |           |    |          |
|-----|-----------|------|-----------|----|----------|
| I.  | May 4-9   | III. | May 18-23 | V. | June 1-6 |
| II. | May 11-16 | IV.  | May 25-30 |    |          |

*Legacy*  
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